

Appl. No. : 10/534,662
Filed : November 22, 2005

REMARKS

In response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, each claim now has the proper claim status identifier.

In response to the Office Action, Applicant submits the following remarks:

Claims 3, 17, and 22 have been canceled without prejudice to further prosecution. Claims 1, 4, 6, 10, 12, 15-16, and 20-21 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments can be found at least in the original claims. Entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the rejections in light of the following remarks is requested.

Discussion of the Drawings

In the Office Action, the Figures 1-2 are objected to as containing only that which is old without a "prior art" label. Figures 1-6 are objected to as containing acronyms which should be spelled out. Figures 1-6 have been replaced with the Figures 1-6 found on the replacement sheets attached hereto. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objections.

Discussion of the Objection to the Specification

The specification is objected to as lacking a description of "A computer readable medium including a program for executing a method," as found in Claim 20. The specification has been amended to include description of a computer readable medium including a program for executing a method. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the specification.

Discussion of Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, Claims 3-6, 10-11, 7-9, 14, and 17 are objected to as being dependent from a rejected claim, but would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 15, 20, and 21 have been amended to include the distinguishing features of previous Claim 3, and Claims 2 and 4-11 depend from Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-2, 4-11, 15, 20, and 21 are in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Claim 16 has been amended to include the distinguishing features of previous

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Claim 17, and Claim 18 depends from Claim 16. Accordingly Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 16 and 18 are also in condition for allowance.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of Claim 19. However, Applicant does not necessarily agree with the characterization of the cited art regarding Claim 19, nor does the applicant necessarily agree with the reasons for allowance, and respectfully submits that the language of the entire claim must be considered in determining patentability.

Discussion of Claims Rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-2, 12-13, 15, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by O'Neill (2004/0100951). O'Neill discusses a method of using a new header field referred to as a CAO field. See Abstract.

O'Neill, however, does not teach all of the features of Claim 12. For example, O'Neill does not teach a method of filtering data packets at a network gateway including selectively blocking data packets where the destination address does not meet a destination address criterion and does not meet a forwarding agent criterion which defines an address of at least one forwarding agent. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 12 is in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicant submits that Claim 13 is in condition for allowance because of the features which it inherits from Claim 12 and for its own features.

In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-2, 15 and 21 are in condition for allowance at least because of the inclusion therein of the distinguishing features of previous Claim 3, as discussed above.

Conclusion

Applicant has endeavored to address all of the Examiner's concerns as expressed in the outstanding Office Action. In light of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions which may be answered by telephone, he is invited to call the undersigned directly.

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, Applicant is not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather,

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any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that Applicant has made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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